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The Library Associates

Water Company Archives Presented

The Kentucky-American Water Company presented its archives to the University of Kentucky Libraries' Department of Special Collections during ceremonies on 24 July. This historical collection on water service dates back to the beginning of Lexington's public water system in 1885, and the documents that it contains unfolds for the researcher the growth of the city—each new street, house, and business.

The collection includes a variety of materials, including photographs, tap-on and billing records, hand-written ledgers, and other water company business records. The holdings are rich in local economic and social history.

Kentucky-American Water Company Vice-President and General Manager Robert A. Edens presented the archives to the university, and Mrs. Louise Roselle accepted the collection on behalf of the libraries before a large gathering in the W. Hugh Peal Gallery. William Cooper, Jr., Curator of the Modern Political Papers Collection, prepared and installed an interpretive exhibition of the materials in the Peal Gallery for the occasion. A reception and tours of the Special Collections Department followed the formal program.

Library Endowment Fund

University of Kentucky President David P. Roselle has appealed to all university alumni to support the University Libraries by contributing to the U. K. Library Endowment Fund. More than sixty thousand dollars was added to the endowment during the months of August and September of 1989, boosting the total endowment fund to some \$200,000.

The Library Endowment Fund was originated by the Library Associates in 1986 as a part of the Library's Two-Millionth Volume Celebration. Only the interest from the endowment is used to purchase books and other library materials. Hundreds of books have been added to the libraries' collections in this manner since the formation of this valuable resource. Each book bears the name

of an Associate, alumnus or alumna, or other friend, who has demonstrated generosity and support for scholarship and research through a gift to the Library Endowment.

The Library Associates take great pride in this enduring gift, initiated in 1986.

Exhibition of Antique Writing Materials

The unique and fascinating collection of antique writing materials belonging to Prof. Joseph Nickell, Department of English, was exhibited in the W. Hugh Peal Gallery during the month of September 1989. A varied assortment of items that relate to written communication were shown, including antique bulk ink containers and ink pads; medieval parchments; papyrus from ancient Egypt and a Babylonian clay tablet; quill scroll and glass pens, and the first American ballpoint pens; wooden and leather lap desks; antique document holders; desk accessories, such as sanders, ink eraser knives, paper knives, penknives, and pen wipers; an assortment of stationery and wax sealers; and samples of calligraphy and professionally engraved copybooks.

In addition to drawing many viewers to the Gallery, the exhibition was featured on a special broadcast series entitled "Modern Collectibles," produced by WLEX-TV.

Paula Leach Pope